

Application No. 09/974,049
Amendment dated May 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

Attorney Docket: 0051-0165P
Art Unit: 3636
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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-17 and 19-21, 23, and 24 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 1, 19, and 21 are amended, and claims 23 and 24 are added. Claims 1, 6, and 19 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 6-17 to be allowed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1 and 19 are amended herein to recite novel combinations of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, namely, claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Smith, U.S. 2,308,315. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 is amended herein to recite a strap

passing through a recess in a lower central portion of the seat bottom and extending between a front end and a back end of the seat bottom and provided at a back end with an anchoring member to be inserted into the seat of a vehicle; wherein a strap tightening device capable of engaging the seat bottom is slidably connected to a front part of the strap. Full support for the presently claimed features can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2, for example.

By contrast, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of USP 2,308,315, the strap 7 is merely attached to outer sides 1 of the seat 3, rather than a strap passing through a recess in a lower central portion of the seat bottom as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention. USP 2,308,315 is silent about a recess. Moreover, USP 2,308,315 is silent about a strap of any kind extending between a front end and a back end of the seat bottom.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the Smith patent does not disclose the combination of features as set forth in the claim 1.

Amendments to Independent Claim 19

Independent claim 19 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a child car seat wherein the seat bottom has side walls formed as substantially flat surfaces extending upwardly on side edges of a bottom wall of the seat bottom, and at least one of the side walls of the seat bottom being provided with a first projection facing inwardly toward the seat back.

For support the above novel features, see FIGS. 1 and 14A and B, for example.

It is respectfully submitted that the Smith patent does not disclose the combination of features as set forth in claim 19. The Smith patent merely discloses tubular arm members 17 and a notched segmental member 21 carried by arm members 17, rather than the seat bottom having side walls formed as substantially flat surfaces extending upwardly on side edges of a bottom wall of the seat bottom, and at least one of the side walls of the seat bottom being provided with a first projection facing inwardly toward the seat back, as set forth in claim 19 of the present invention.

Therefore, claim 19 of the present application is not anticipated by the disclosure set forth in the Smith patent.

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 21 is amended and claims 23 and 24 are added herein to set forth additional novel aspects of the present invention.

At least for the reasons set forth above, independent claims 1 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Claims 6-17 are allowed. In addition, all dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependence on allowable dependent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

According, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S. C. 102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

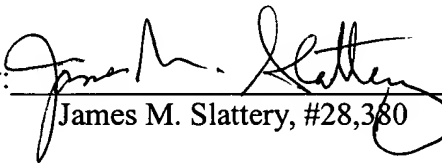
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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